

I rise in support of S. 4439, the Katimiin and Aameekyaaraam Sacred Lands Act sponsored by Senator ALEX PADILLA and led here in the House by Representative JARED HUFFMAN.

The Karuk Tribe's ancestral territory encompasses over 1 million acres in northern California and southern Oregon with about 900 acres currently held in trust for the Tribe.

The lands known as Katimiin and Aameekyaaraam are ceremonial areas and village sites located at the Karuk Tribe's center of the world. These sites host the final series of the Tribe's Pikyavish World Renewal ceremonies.

The Aameekyaaraam is located downriver from the Katimiin and serves as the site of the Jump Dance and First Salmon ceremonies and the historical location of pre-contact inter-Tribal fish harvesting.

These sites remain essential to the Tribe's intergenerational cultural and environmental teachings.

Unfortunately, the Tribe's access to these sacred sites is not always guaranteed. In recent years, Tribal members have even been interrupted by members of the public during private components of their ceremonies.

S. 4439 will resolve this access issue by placing approximately 1,031 acres of Federal land located in Siskiyou and Humboldt Counties in trust for the Tribe.

The bill contains gaming prohibitions and confirms the U.S. Forest Service's authority over managing the wild and scenic rivers located on this parcel.

I thank Senator PADILLA and Representative HUFFMAN for championing this important bill.

Madam Speaker, I urge a "yes" vote, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, S. 4439 would place into trust approximately 1,031 acres of U.S. Forest Service land where the Salmon River meets the Klamath River in Siskiyou and Humboldt Counties in California for the Karuk Tribe.

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This bill would require that the land be taken into trust for traditional and customary uses for the benefit of the Tribe. This bill would prohibit gaming on the land and would require that the land held in trust shall not affect the status or administration of this section of the Klamath River as a wild and scenic river. The trust land is also subject to valid existing rights, contracts, and management agreements relating to easements and rights-of-way.

The Karuk Tribe is one of the largest Tribes in northern California with approximately 3,300 enrolled Tribal members. Its people have lived in northwestern California for thousands of years. The land being placed into trust for the Tribe is considered, as Mr. TONKO stated, the center of the world of their religion, and it is used for their annual world renewal ceremonies.

The Tribe has a special use permit with the Forest Service to access these lands for their ceremonies and closes the river during certain times in the summer to facilitate them. However, there have been public disruptions during the ceremonies from some unknowing individuals rafting the river.

This bill would ensure the Tribe is able to continue its religious practices and continue teaching future generations of the Karuk people the Tribe's culture and customs.

Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers. I urge adoption of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TONKO. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of S. 4439 the Katimiin and Aameekyaaraam Sacred Lands Act. I was proud to partner with Sen. PADILLA and introduce the House companion, H.R. 6032. This bill will place 1,031 acres federal lands located in Humboldt and Siskiyou counties into trust for the Karuk Tribe. Natural resource stewardship of land, wildlife, plants, and water is at the core of the Karuk people's culture and identity. Yet 95 percent of their aboriginal territory is currently under federal management, undermining the tribe's ability to exercise traditional practices that have been passed down since time immemorial.

These lands, known as Katimiin and Aameekyaaraam, are ceremonial areas and village sites located at the Karuk Tribe's "center of the world." These areas are where the final series of the Tribes' annual Pik-ya-yish World Renewal ceremonies take place. Aameekyaaraam is located downriver from Katimiin and serves as the site of the Jump Dance and First Salmon ceremonies and is the historical location of pre-contact intertribal fish harvesting. While arrangements with the Forest Service have allowed the Karuk Tribe to use these areas for their ceremonies, their access is not always guaranteed, and privacy from the public remains an issue. This legislation returns this sacred ground to the Karuk Tribe, correcting a historic injustice.

I've had the immense privilege and honor of visiting this area—these lands are not only majestic, they are central to Karuk history, religion, culture, and identity. Placing them in trust ensures that the Karuk way of life can endure for future generations.

Under this bill, only Forest Service lands will transfer to the tribe; all private lands, allotments and existing rights associated with those will be excluded. The language includes Class I, II, and III gaming prohibitions, and confirms the U.S. Forest Service's authority over managing the Wild and Scenic Rivers located on this parcel of land. We've received widespread support from the local government, private landowners and businesses, neighboring tribes, and environmental organizations. To date, there has been no opposition to this legislation.

Senators PADILLA and FEINSTEIN have been wonderful partners in advancing this bill in the Senate, and the Karuk Tribe has worked with our offices tirelessly. It is my honor to advance this legislation that gives land back to the Karuk Tribe, and I urge my colleagues to vote Yea and get this bill to the President's desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. TONKO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 4439.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

BUTTERFIELD OVERLAND NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL DESIGNATION ACT

Mr. TONKO. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 3519) to amend the National Trails System Act to designate the Butterfield Overland National Historic Trail, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 3519

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Butterfield Overland National Historic Trail Designation Act".

SEC. 2. DESIGNATION OF THE BUTTERFIELD OVERLAND NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL.

Section 5(a) of the National Trails System Act (16 U.S.C. 1244(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(31) BUTTERFIELD OVERLAND NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The Butterfield Overland National Historic Trail, a trail of approximately 3,292 miles following the route operated by the Butterfield Overland Mail Company, known as the 'Ox-Bow Route', to transport mail and passengers between the eastern termini of St. Louis, Missouri, and Memphis, Tennessee, and extending westward through the States of Arkansas, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona, to the western terminus of San Francisco, California, as generally depicted on the maps numbered 1 through 15, entitled 'Study Route Maps', and contained in the report prepared by the National Park Service entitled 'Butterfield Overland Trail National Historical Trail Special Resource Study' and dated May 2018.

"(B) MAPS.—The maps described in subparagraph (A) shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the National Park Service.

"(C) ADMINISTRATION.—The trail established by subparagraph (A) shall be administered by the Secretary of the Interior.

"(D) LAND ACQUISITION.—The United States shall not acquire for the trail established by subparagraph (A) any land or interest in land outside of the exterior boundary of any federally administered area without the consent of the owner of the land or interest in land.

"(E) NO BUFFER ZONE CREATED.—

"(i) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this paragraph, the acquisition of land or an interest in land authorized by this paragraph, or any management plan for the Butterfield Overland National Historic Trail creates a buffer zone outside of the Butterfield Overland National Historic Trail.

"(ii) OUTSIDE ACTIVITIES.—The fact that an activity or use on land outside the Butterfield Overland National Historic Trail can be seen, heard, or detected from land or an interest in land acquired for the

Butterfield Overland National Historic Trail shall not preclude, limit, control, regulate, or determine the conduct or management of the activity or use.

“(F) EFFECT ON ENERGY DEVELOPMENT, PRODUCTION, OR TRANSMISSION.—Nothing in this paragraph, the acquisition of land or an interest in land authorized by this paragraph, or any management plan for the Butterfield Overland National Historic Trail shall prohibit, hinder, or disrupt the development, production, or transmission of energy.

“(G) NO EMINENT DOMAIN OR CONDEMNATION.—In carrying out this paragraph, the Secretary of the Interior may not use eminent domain or condemnation.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. TONKO) and the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TONKO. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the measure under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. TONKO. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of S. 3519, the Butterfield Overland National Historic Trail Designation Act, introduced by Senator BOOZMAN of Arkansas. This bill passed the Senate unanimously earlier this week.

This bill amends the National Trails Systems Act to designate the Butterfield National Historic Trail stretching from St. Louis, Missouri, to San Francisco, California.

Known as the Oxbow Trail, the Butterfield Overland Trail was an important 19th century postal route that the National Park Service studied and deemed to be nationally significant and feasible, suitable, and desirable for addition to the national trails system as a national historic trail.

I congratulate the Arkansas delegation and supporters of this bill, as this will be a great addition to a growing network of national historic trails. However, I would like to note the bill includes novel language regarding energy development that has never been included in the National Trails Act. Simply, it states that nothing in the bill shall prohibit or hinder the development, production, or transmission of energy.

While this is an important concern, historic trails designations like the one envisioned by this bill have not been an impediment to energy development. So while this is a worthy trail designation—and I support the adoption of this particular bill—I think we should be mindful of the need to include similar language in future designations.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of S. 3519, offered by my colleague and good friend from Arkansas, Senator JOHN BOOZMAN, which would designate the Butterfield Overland Trail as a national historic trail.

This historic trail commemorates the route pioneered by the Butterfield Overland Mail Company as they transported mail and people along the Oxbow Route between 1858 and 1861. Starting in Missouri and Tennessee and ending in California, this route was pivotal to westward expansion prior to the Civil War and plays an important role in Arkansas' history.

In fact, four segments of the route have been designated on the National Register of Historic Places in Arkansas and the Potts Home in Pope County as the most intact stagecoach station in this country. This station has been well-maintained by the Pope County Historical Foundation as the Potts Inn Museum.

In 2018, the National Park Service completed a special resource study of the trail and found that the Butterfield Overland Trail meets the criteria for national significance and is feasible, suitable, and desirable for designation as a national historic trail.

I concur that this trail is well-suited for designation, and I hope that this new national historic trail will help bring renewed attention to the important role Arkansas played in shaping our Nation.

Madam Speaker, I thank Senator BOOZMAN for his steadfast leadership on this bill, an issue that he has championed since 2007. I would also like to thank him for ensuring that important provisions protecting energy development and private property rights were added to the legislation. These are commonsense provisions that will ensure the historic trail will not interfere with any energy development, production, or transmission.

On a personal note, during the summers when I was in college and I was having to carry out a long-distance relationship with my college sweetheart back before iPhones and the internet, my late father-in-law actually retired from the Postal Service, and I think it was very fitting that their address was 1208 Butterfield Trail. I sent many letters to that address during those long summers. Butterfield Trail holds a special place in my heart.

Madam Speaker, I support this bipartisan bill. I urge its adoption, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TONKO. Madam Speaker, I enjoyed hearing that bit of nostalgia. I have no further requests for time. I have no other speakers. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. TONKO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 3519.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AMENDING THE FARM SECURITY AND RURAL INVESTMENT ACT OF 2002

Ms. SPANBERGER. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 5328) to amend the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to extend terminal lakes assistance.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 5328

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. TERMINAL LAKES ASSISTANCE.

Section 2507(f) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (16 U.S.C. 3839bb-6(f)) is amended by striking “2023” and inserting “2025”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Virginia (Ms. SPANBERGER) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Virginia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. SPANBERGER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

Ms. SPANBERGER. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of S. 5328. This legislation will enable the desert terminal lakes assistance program to fulfill its intended purpose while bringing the program to an orderly closure. S. 5328 amends the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 by changing the program's sunset date from October 1, 2023, to October 1, 2025.

The program has successfully improved the water supply to Walker Lake, Pyramid, and Summit Lakes for the benefit of at-risk natural desert terminal lakes and associated riparian and watershed resources.

To date, the program has secured over half of the water to reach the restoration goal for Walker Lake while also protecting agricultural interests in Nevada and California. The program has brought nearly 20,000 acres under sustainable management.

With an additional 2 years, the program can maximize conservation outcomes while supporting agricultural producers and ensure that maximum outcomes are achieved as the program